

BOARD OF APPORTIONMENT PUBLIC HEARING  
FORREST CITY

TUESDAY, JULY 24, 2001

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East Arkansas Community College  
Lecture Hall  
1700 Newcastle Road  
Forrest City, Arkansas

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COURT REPORTER:

DONNA K. PETRE, CCR  
Petre's Stenograph Service  
Post Office Box 1027  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-1027

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2 P R O C E E D I N G S

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4 TUESDAY, JULY 24, 2001

5 6:10 p.m.

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7 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Well, I want  
8 to welcome everybody for being here, and thank  
9 everybody for being here, and if there are any  
10 folks out in the hallway, if you don't mind  
11 please asking them to come in. As chairman for  
12 this meeting of the Apportionment Board, I  
13 officially now call the meeting to order.

14 Let me first send the apologies of  
15 the Governor to you. His wife had a  
16 hysterectomy yesterday, and apparently  
17 everything went well, but they were waiting on  
18 results from some lab work to come back today.

19 So, after our meeting this morning in Beebe,  
20 he went back to Little Rock, and then Sharon  
21 and I went to Jonesboro and now here in Forrest  
22 City. And it is great to be here.

23 We want to thank all you all for being  
24 here. This is a process that is really vitally  
25 important to our democracy. It is truly the

1 essence of our government that we should all be  
2 represented at the state level. And that is  
3 what this is all about. Arkansas is the only  
4 state in the union who does apportionment this  
5 way. Every state does it in some way or  
6 another, but Arkansas is the only one that does  
7 it this way. Most use the legislature, some  
8 have a special commission.

9 But under the Arkansas Constitution,  
10 the Governor, who is the chief executive  
11 officer, the Secretary of State, who is the  
12 chief elections officer, and the Attorney  
13 General, who is the chief legal officer for the  
14 state, all sit down after the census and they  
15 redraw all the state House and Senate  
16 districts.

17 There are some housekeeping details  
18 we need to address before we get under way. The  
19 format will be, Sharon and I will make some  
20 opening comments. And really, what we are here  
21 for is to listen, and we would invite your  
22 comments. Anyone who has anything to say,  
23 please feel free to get up and say it.  
24 Probably what we will ask you to do is get by  
25 this microphone maybe here, there seems to be

1 another one over there, but for right now,  
2 let's say this microphone here. (Indicating.)

3 Please identify yourself for the  
4 record, because we have a court reporter here  
5 who is taking down every word that is said  
6 today. This is an official proceeding of the  
7 state government, State of Arkansas. So,  
8 please state your name, preferably where you  
9 are from, for the record so that we will have a  
10 record of that.

11 One thing I need to emphasize, and  
12 I know Sharon will, too, is what you see  
13 here are two maps, Senate draft, House draft.  
14 The important word there is "draft". These are  
15 not engraved in stone. There is nothing about  
16 these that isn't on the table and subject to  
17 change. But what our staffs have done, and we  
18 need to take our hats off to the staff. A lot  
19 of you all have talked to the staff. I see  
20 three or four people out here who before the  
21 meeting told me they have talked with the staff  
22 of the Apportionment Board or our individual  
23 staff.

24 And what the staff has done is, they have  
25 taken all the information, all the suggestions

1           they could, they tried to put it through their  
2           filter, and Butch Reeves in just a moment will  
3           share some of the criteria that we considered  
4           in drawing these maps. But they put it down,  
5           and finally they just had to put on it paper.

6           And we totally understand that there  
7           will be some people as we go through this  
8           11 city tour and this regional tour all  
9           over the State of Arkansas, we completely  
10          understand that there will be some people who  
11          would like to see some changes. And we fully  
12          anticipate some people here who will want to  
13          see some changes, and for very good reasons.  
14          So, we are here to listen, to try to look at  
15          your suggestions, and look at our maps, and you  
16          will see, Sharon and I have maps, spread out  
17          all over the tables here.

18          But one thing we put up here for you, just  
19          so you will know, is we put the Senate draft as  
20          it is now, the draft, for the proposed draft,  
21          but under it, we put the existing system that  
22          we have right now in place, the one that has  
23          been in place for the last ten years. The same  
24          with the House. You see the color map is the  
25          2001 proposal, and again, draft, and down here,

1           you see what was in place for all of the 1990s,  
2           and the election 2000. So, for those of you  
3           who are interested, you will see how things  
4           have changed.

5           There is one thing that you need to  
6           understand and keep in mind. And that is that  
7           the population in Arkansas has shifted. And you  
8           can see this as compared on these sets of maps.

9           But basically, the growth in Arkansas'  
10          population in the last ten years has been in  
11          Central Arkansas. This is a generality, but it  
12          has been, generally speaking, in Central  
13          Arkansas and in the north and western part of  
14          Arkansas.

15          And so, what that means is, even though  
16          some counties over here didn't grow at all, or  
17          maybe some few shrunk in population, some grew  
18          quite a bit, but the overall state average is  
19          13.8 percent -- 13.7 percent overall growth.  
20          So, if you stayed the same, relatively  
21          speaking, that is like shrinking 13 percent, if  
22          that makes sense. And so, what you will see,  
23          as reflected in these maps, is in order to get  
24          the population in South and East Arkansas, and  
25          some other parts of the state, but in South and

1 East Arkansas, generally, what you see is that  
2 the legislative districts have to grow in size,  
3 they have to expand to get more population so  
4 they can meet the numbers that they need to  
5 meet.

6 And to let you know, the numbers for  
7 a House district, the optimal number is 26,734.

8 The optimal number for a Senate district is  
9 76,383. So, what you are seeing here, compared  
10 to this map, is larger districts  
11 geographically, and what you are seeing in  
12 Central and really in Northwest Arkansas are  
13 smaller districts geographically, because their  
14 population has gotten denser.

15 What I would like to do is turn it  
16 over to Sharon for a few comments, and then we  
17 will proceed with our meeting.

18 SECRETARY OF STATE SHARON PRIEST: Well,  
19 Mark, since you said everything that I usually  
20 say, I get to tell your story. This is a story  
21 that Mark has told. One of the reasons that we  
22 do this is because we feel that it is very  
23 important to democracy and very important to  
24 the state that we have your input. And Mark  
25 had received just about as much input as he

1           could handle one day. So, he thought he would  
2           call one of the senators and play a little  
3           trick on him.

4                       And so, he said, "Senator, I just want to  
5           let you know that we have done away with your  
6           district, you don't have a district anymore.  
7           Your colleague to the east, he wanted that  
8           part, one part of it, and your colleague to the  
9           west wanted the other half. So, we took care  
10          of that." So, the senator said, "Well, Mark,  
11          let me tell you about my colleague to the east.  
12          He is a shyster, his father was before him,  
13          always has, always will be. And that guy to  
14          the west, well, he is just there to line his  
15          own pockets. He never goes to his meetings,  
16          and I am the one that has to vote for him most  
17          of the time."

18                      Well, at this point, Mark thinks, "Oh,  
19          I think this conversation has gone a little bit  
20          too far." "Senator, Senator, I am sorry, I was  
21          only kidding, it was a joke, just a joke." He  
22          said, "Well, Mark, I don't understand how you  
23          could let me talk about my two best friends  
24          that way." So, see, this time, I get the  
25          laugh.



1           ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: That is  
2           good, that is good.

3           SECRETARY OF STATE SHARON PRIEST: So,  
4           anyway, really, we want you to know that this  
5           is a draft plan. The lines are not drawn  
6           in concrete, and we anticipate changes in them.

7           I think it is good for our state that we  
8           had an increase in growth. But as Mark  
9           explained, it created some challenges,  
10          particularly in areas of the state that  
11          lost population, because the increase for  
12          a Senate district was about -- the ideal Senate  
13          district was about 9,300, and the ideal House  
14          district had to grow by about 3,200 people.  
15          So, you can see, if you have lost population,  
16          how challenging that could be.

17          We -- I want to commend the staff who have  
18          worked very hard. When they sat down to draw  
19          lines, staff from all three offices were  
20          together. Tonight, I am just going to go in  
21          the order that they are sitting here. Larry  
22          Crane from Mark's office, Tim Humphries from my  
23          office, and Butch Reeves from the Governor's  
24          office. And there were others that you have  
25          probably talked to and have seen. And in fact,

1 Greg Fielding was here tonight.

2 But they have always worked together on  
3 drawing the lines. It has been a very good  
4 system, we have been able to come forward with  
5 one plan. And I don't anticipate that  
6 changing, based on the time line that we are  
7 looking at. And the time line that we are  
8 looking at is to have a meeting of the Board of  
9 Apportionment and have a plan filed by Labor  
10 Day. Pretty aggressive, but that is what we  
11 are looking at right now.

12 So, we feel that you are a very important  
13 part of this. We want you to be aware that  
14 when you look at this plan, it is not a  
15 two-year plan, it is not a four-year plan, it  
16 is a ten-year plan. And you need to be looking  
17 out for the best interest of your community.  
18 And that is what we are looking to hear from  
19 you tonight, what you think is the best way  
20 to follow the one person, one vote, and  
21 give you appropriate representation for  
22 the next ten years. Thank you.

23 ATTORNEY GENERAL PRYOR: Thank you.

24 The way we will proceed here is, we will  
25 let Butch Reeves, the Governor's legal counsel,

1 and one of the staff members of  
2 the Apportionment Board to explain some of the  
3 criteria that we use and some of the process  
4 and some of those details. And then, Butch will  
5 open the floor for comments. And like I said,  
6 if you could please remember to identify  
7 yourself for the court reporter, that would be  
8 great. So, Butch?

9 MR. OLAN REEVES: This process really  
10 began in the fall. The staff, we took a tour  
11 of the state and went to 13 places, heard  
12 comments before we had ever gotten any numbers  
13 or drawn any maps. We got the numbers in  
14 March, we started probably the third week of  
15 April with the computer system, and we have  
16 been at it every since. These maps you see were  
17 finalized July 2nd, it took us a while to get  
18 them printed, big plotter printers takes a  
19 while. And that is the process we got through.

20 The United States Constitution says in  
21 this process, we should do one person, one  
22 vote, as the federal courts and U.S. Supreme  
23 Court have interpreted it. That is why 76,383  
24 for the Senate and 26,734 for the House, as  
25 close to those numbers as possible, as to

1           guarantee one person, one vote.  
2           Constitutionally, you are allowed about a five  
3           percent leeway on the top end and five percent  
4           on the bottom end. So, if you are on the House  
5           side, 25,000 something is okay and 27,000  
6           something is okay, as long as you are within  
7           that range. But we tried to stick to the  
8           actual numbers as much as possible.

9           The Arkansas Constitution just says  
10          that the Board can't make a decision  
11          arbitrarily. That means what guidelines  
12          did they use? As long as they have guidelines,  
13          it is not arbitrary. And the guidelines are  
14          real -- pretty much set out by the U.S. Supreme  
15          Court in these types of cases. And those are,  
16          compactness. If you can get a district  
17          compact, you should do so. For instance,  
18          Northwest Arkansas, because the people are  
19          concentrated, you can have a compact district.

20          Now, that doesn't mean that a Senate district  
21          or a House district over here isn't compact  
22          simply because it is bigger, it is as compact  
23          as you can get it to get the 26,734 in the  
24          district.

25          Contiguity, that just means they touch.

1           Preservation of political subdivisions, such as  
2           cities and counties. We tried our best to keep  
3           cities and counties whole, unless you were  
4           bigger than 26,734, and we had to split you.  
5           Some cities are split for other reasons, not  
6           just numbers. The other thing we tried to do  
7           is preservation of communities of interest.  
8           For instance, does this town have anything in  
9           common with this town if we lump them together  
10          in a Senate district? That was one  
11          consideration we tried. What does this county  
12          and this county and this county have in common,  
13          and would they fit together? That is something  
14          else we looked at.

15                 The preservation of the cores of existing  
16          districts, which takes into account incumbents.

17          That is something that the courts have said  
18          you can take into account. How does the  
19          district look now, how many people do they  
20          need, and how do we make that happen, Senate  
21          and House size? It wasn't always possible to  
22          keep the districts looking like they did. Term  
23          limits helped us square up some districts that  
24          looked kind of convoluted. And we tried to do  
25          that, if possible.

1           The other thing is compliance with Section  
2 Two of the Voting Rights Act is a consideration  
3 that the Board has to take into account and  
4 should take into account in drawing the  
5 districts. That is really where we started.  
6 There wasn't any other criteria than that, and  
7 we started drawing the districts. And  
8 honestly, once you are on the computer and you  
9 start drawing, you kind of lose a blind eye  
10 sometimes to where you are and you have to zoom  
11 out and say, "What county am I even in," in  
12 getting the precincts. We did it based on the  
13 precinct level, the precincts as reported by  
14 your clerk to the U.S. Census Bureau, that is  
15 the numbers we had to use.

16           So, with that in mind, we would like  
17 to hear your comments about what you like, what  
18 you don't like. There are two suggested  
19 changes that were handed out, one on the House  
20 side and one on the Senate side. Those are not  
21 in these plans, they were suggested after the  
22 plans were drawn up as proposals for the Board  
23 to look at. That doesn't mean we will look at  
24 those, that doesn't mean they will be part of  
25 the plan, we are just going to consider them.

1           So, if you would go to that mike, who  
2           wants to be first? Okay. Go ahead. And so,  
3           if someone wants to follow him and go ahead and  
4           move to that side of the room and line up, it  
5           would make the process a lot smoother and  
6           faster.

7           MR. FRANK BARTON: My name is Frank  
8           Barton, I am the city clerk and treasurer from  
9           Marion, Arkansas. There might have been two  
10          suggestions over here, now there are going to  
11          be three.

12          ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Okay.

13          MR. FRANK BARTON: So, I would like  
14          to talk about Senate Districts 16 and 17, the  
15          concern that I had when I looked at it. And I  
16          have got some -- I will just talk about the  
17          things that I do not like about them. And I  
18          will try and point from here, and if I have to,  
19          I will move up and give it. And then I have  
20          got a suggestion that will make 16 and 17 much  
21          cleaner for everybody involved.

22          ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Okay.

23          MR. FRANK BARTON: The first thing  
24          about 16 and 17, what it does to Crittenden  
25          County, it cuts Crittenden County in half. It

1 is the only county with a population  
2 over 35,000 in the state that this is done to.

3 It totally ignores the importance of  
4 Crittenden County. It was the only county in  
5 the delta that had an increase in population in  
6 the last ten years. It has got the lowest  
7 unemployment in the delta. It ignores the  
8 importance of West Memphis being the 12th  
9 largest city in the state. It cuts West  
10 Memphis basically in half. And I see no rhyme  
11 or reason why this has to be done.

12 It does -- I think this plan ignores  
13 traditional political subdivisions. It  
14 cuts Crittenden County in half, St. Francis  
15 County in half, and Lee County in half. And it  
16 doesn't have to be done that way. Those  
17 counties could remain intact. It is pretty  
18 convoluted how it is done, how it is drawn  
19 around West Memphis and it goes up into  
20 Crittenden County and it comes out and it looks  
21 like it takes in part of St. Francis. And it  
22 is a nightmare for the county clerks to keep up  
23 with where the voting lines are.

24 And I know what happens in Crittenden  
25 County as it is now. People come to vote and



1           they don't know what senator they are supposed  
2           to go vote for. They think they are going to  
3           vote for one, and come to the line at the poll  
4           and they find it is somebody else, and they  
5           become disenfranchised and they leave and they  
6           don't vote because of that. But the  
7           lines are bizarrely drawn, there is no relevant  
8           sense or purpose about it. And in my opinion,  
9           it decreases communities of interest by  
10          splitting these three important counties in the  
11          delta.

12                 Now, I am not a cartographer, as people  
13          that followed my directions over here today  
14          would probably attest to, but I am a numbers  
15          cruncher and I can count. And you can take  
16          Crittenden County in its entirety, Cross County  
17          in its entirety, and part of Woodruff County  
18          and make a Senate district out of it. And you  
19          turn around and take St. Francis in its  
20          entirety, Lee County in its entirety, Monroe  
21          County in its entirety, and that part of  
22          Phillips County that you have already got there  
23          and make a Senate district out of that.

24                 I have got numbers here, and I will  
25          pass them out and I will leave them up here, as

1 well. What that will do, instead of splitting  
2 four counties, you will only split two,  
3 Phillips, which is already split with the  
4 Helena, West Helena area, and Woodruff County,  
5 which only has 8,741 people, and it is not  
6 going to be a majority in any district that it  
7 is involved in. You will keep Crittenden, St.  
8 Francis, and Lee Counties completely intact.  
9 You will keep Forrest City and West Memphis  
10 completely intact and in their counties.

11 You will preserve the black majority  
12 district that it looks like 16 was intended to  
13 do. That black majority district will still be  
14 there. It is reasonably and sensibly drawn, it  
15 is well-defined and has understandable lines.  
16 It won't affect any other Senate district. All  
17 we are talking about is 16 and 17, it doesn't  
18 do anything with anybody else around there.  
19 It is contiguous, the lines are drawn  
20 along existing political boundaries, it  
21 increases communities of interest, and it has  
22 compactness, and it is something that could be  
23 done. And I would, you know, urge the Board to  
24 look at it.

25 And I will give you my numbers that I have

1 counted up, and if you have got any questions  
2 about it, I will be happy to discuss it.

3 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Thanks you.

4 MR. OLAN REEVES: Who wants to be next?

5 MS. EDA CLAIRE SLABAUGH: My name is  
6 Eda Claire Slabaugh, and I am the mayor of  
7 Parkin in Cross County. I would just like to  
8 appeal to you to please keep Parkin in Cross  
9 County. Parkin is a 1,600 populated town, we  
10 are across Crowley's Ridge, we have always been  
11 a part of Cross County in every way. We are a  
12 very close-knit county. In fact, presently, we  
13 are working to be an ace county. I just appeal  
14 to you -- I don't have anything against the  
15 other districts or anything, but I would just  
16 like to see Parkin stay with Cross County.

17 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: You are  
18 talking about on the House side?

19 MR. OLAN REEVES: You are talking about  
20 the House district, right?

21 MS. EDA CLAIRE SLABAUGH: That is right.  
22 Thanks.

23 MR. OLAN REEVES: Thank you. Who wants to  
24 be next? Don't be bashful.

25 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: If you all

1 want to, just come on down and line up.

2 MR. OLAN REEVES: Yeah. If you want  
3 to come on down and get in line, that will be  
4 certainly appropriate.

5 MR. JOHN GRIFFEE: I am John Griffiee,  
6 election commissioner of Crittenden County. I  
7 want to help her out. She wants Parkin  
8 in Cross County and I want Parkin in Cross  
9 County, because I believe that the -- and I am  
10 talking about House seats, strictly House  
11 seats.

12 MR. OLAN REEVES: Right.

13 MR. JOHN GRIFFEE: Crittenden County  
14 is the ideal population to have two intact  
15 House seats in that county. If you will check  
16 the figures, you will see I am right. West  
17 Memphis is the right size to have a House  
18 member solely representing West Memphis. The  
19 rest of the county could represent the other  
20 two. That would be two seats in the growing  
21 area of the delta at this time. Also, it  
22 appears, as you check down the line on the  
23 House seats, otherwise, if you did do the two  
24 Houses in Crittenden County, then that part of  
25 Cross County would be available for that House

1 seat over there.

2 Now, when we start, though, on how  
3 the rest of the area is lined up after you take  
4 those two, you have got, to me, it  
5 is an obvious gerrymandering, because you start  
6 up in the southern part of Mississippi County  
7 with a district that is 61 percent minority,  
8 the next district down below it is 71 percent  
9 minority, the next district, which is 63, and  
10 in Crittenden County, it is 77 percent white.  
11 The next district down in Lee County is 63  
12 percent minority, and the last county, in  
13 Phillips, it is 59 percent minority. That, to  
14 me is class gerrymandering.

15 MR. DODD DAGGETT: Attorney General Pryor,  
16 Secretary Priest, my name is Dodd Daggett, and  
17 I am an attorney from Marianna. And I spoke  
18 with your committee several months ago when you  
19 were in Helena. The thing that concerns me is  
20 what this gentleman just spoke about, and that  
21 is racial gerrymandering. As I look at the  
22 numbers and try to crunch them and tell  
23 something about them, it appears that you have  
24 taken Senate District 16, and you have placed  
25 that 32 percent white district.

1           If you have these numbers at your  
2           computer, sir, would you kick those up on the  
3           Board? Can you do that with your computer?  
4           Can you just give me the breakdown, for  
5           example, in Senate District 16, what is your  
6           breakdown of black and white, please? My  
7           calculations led me to believe in Senate 16, as  
8           you have drawn it, you had 32 percent white,  
9           65 percent black, which, and three percent  
10          other.

11           MR. REEVES: That is right.

12           MR. DODD DAGGETT: There is a man shaking  
13          his head. That is all right. Fine. It is my  
14          understanding that the Supreme Courts -- our  
15          Supreme Court, the United States Supreme Court,  
16          has had about ten cases in the last year.

17           MR. OLAN REEVES: (Indicated yes.)

18           MR. DODD DAGGETT: You are shaking  
19          your head like I hope you have read these  
20          things. And basically, they are telling  
21          you that if you draw these lines with race as a  
22          factor, you are going to get sued. Does  
23          everybody understand that? The secretary is  
24          not shaking her head either way. I mean, that  
25          is --

1 SECRETARY OF STATE SHARON PRIEST: I  
2 am listening, Mr. Daggett.

3 MR. DODD DAGGETT: Very good. I am  
4 glad you are, because I can't tell that you are  
5 listening to me when I look at the things you  
6 all have drawn. As I look at them, it appears  
7 that you are deliberately drawing districts to  
8 create minority districts. Is that what you  
9 are  
10 doing?

11 SECRETARY OF STATE SHARON PRIEST: In some  
12 cases.

13 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Well, we are  
14 trying to comply with the law.

15 MR. DODD DAGGETT: Well, you understand  
16 the law, and the case is -- I think I have  
17 given it to all of your assistants one other  
18 time.

19 MR. OLAN REEVES: (Indicated yes.)

20 MR. DODD DAGGETT: I am getting another  
21 head shake over there, "Yes." Is that if you  
22 use race as the predominant factor for drawing  
23 these lines, you are violating the law. And it  
24 seems to me when I look at the figures that we  
25 have, when I look at, for example, Crittenden

1 County, it says it is basically 50 percent  
2 white, 47 percent black. I look at St. Francis  
3 County, it says it is 48 percent white, 49  
4 percent black. Lee County appears to be 41  
5 percent white, 75 percent black.

6 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: No.

7 MR. DODD DAGGETT: Is that wrong?

8 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: The numbers don't  
9 add up.

10 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: Where is that other  
11 25 percent of the population?

12 MR. DODD DAGGETT: That other 25 percent?

13 All right. Well, let's go back and let's  
14 look. I got these off the computer. Okay. I  
15 came up with, in Lee County, 41 percent white,  
16 57 percent black.

17 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: That is better.

18 MR. DODD DAGGETT: And there are some  
19 others thrown in there. Phillips County, I  
20 have got 39 percent white, 59 percent black.  
21 But the problem that concerns me, the problem  
22 that concerns me, if my math is correct,  
23 is that you have drawn your Senate seat so that  
24 it is deliberately drawn 65 percent black. And  
25 there is nowhere near -- that figure doesn't



1 reach anywhere you try. Now, my question to you  
2 is, why did you do that?

3 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Well, we  
4 are here today to listen. I mean, we are  
5 trying to comply with all the laws, the Voting  
6 Rights Act, we are trying to comply with all of  
7 the U.S. Supreme Court decisions which you have  
8 mentioned. I don't know if you mentioned the  
9 most recent one, the one that came out just a  
10 few months ago. You know, we are talking about  
11 that you could consider race and, you know, I  
12 think -- I am not sure that we, as the  
13 Apportionment Board, agree with your  
14 interpretation of the law.

15 But you know, we will just have to see. I  
16 mean, we are going to do the best that we can.

17 We are going to try to take everybody's  
18 considerations, everybody's thoughts, and  
19 we are going to try to take everybody --  
20 everybody's ideas, sit down, and try to  
21 draw these things the best we can, and hope we  
22 do the right thing for the state.

23 MR. LARRY CRANE: Mr. Chairman, I  
24 don't believe that Mr. Daggett understands that  
25 this is the staff's recommendation. The Board

1 has not made any decisions yet at all.

2 MR. DODD DAGGETT: That is excellent. I am  
3 delighted to hear that. And if the three  
4 elected officials that actually get to make the  
5 decision, the Arkansas Law Review, and your  
6 assistant has it, I know I gave it to him, an  
7 excellent article that deals with everything  
8 about it. I understand there is a new case out  
9 from the Supreme Court. But nevertheless --  
10 I will use your quote. In the first  
11 meeting that you held, I think the Governor was  
12 addressing the group and you made a statement  
13 that you wanted to do basically what was fair,  
14 and on two occasions you said, "We are going to  
15 follow the law."

16 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Right.

17 MR. DODD DAGGETT: That was your  
18 instructions to your staff and everyone else's,  
19 "Let's follow the law."

20 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Right.

21 MR. DODD DAGGETT: Well, the law seems to  
22 be, "Do not racially gerrymand." I don't think  
23 any of us have any problem with you drawing a  
24 district by using, say, all of Lee -- look at  
25 Phillips County, for example, your House draft

1           that you have, that is an excellent district.  
2           Everyone in Phillips County that wants to vote  
3           is going to get to vote and no one can complain  
4           that the lines after been changed because of  
5           race in any way.

6                     It appears that what you have over  
7           here, you have -- or your staff, your  
8           staff, has carved out Forrest City for  
9           some reason. And on the House -- on the Senate  
10          seat, you have gone up to the community of West  
11          Memphis, and you have gone up and did a totally  
12          black community, or 75 percent community, you  
13          have done that. All I am saying is, avoid that  
14          if you can. No one wants a litigation, no  
15          one wants a lawsuit. If you will read the law,  
16          I think you will find that you are not supposed  
17          to do that, and we would ask that you please  
18          not do that.

19                    ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: All right.

20                    MR. DODD DAGGETT: All right. Thank  
21          you for your time.

22                    MR. BILLY CLAY: I am kind of a short guy  
23          myself.

24                    UNIDENTIFIED MAN: I hope this doesn't  
25          fall.

1           MR. BILLY CLAY: I am Billy Clay, I am the  
2           mayor of the City of Brinkley, I have served 16  
3           years on our Quorum Court. And I tell you, I  
4           like both plans, primarily it is purely out of  
5           selfishness. Monroe County has  
6           been discriminated against for about 30 years,  
7           since we got away from our one whole unit.  
8           Monroe County presently is being divided three  
9           ways in the House, and that has been totally  
10          unfair for our county.

11          On the Senate side, I made that  
12          race, Kevin and I did many years ago,  
13          nine counties, two full, seven parcels,  
14          impossible. I traveled from Brinkley  
15          to McGehee, Arkansas. It took me a day  
16          and a half just to file. So, I would  
17          just request that you all humbly consider  
18          leaving Monroe County intact with any  
19          plans that you use. Thank you.

20          ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: In the  
21          draft, it is?

22          MR. BILLY CLAY: Yes.

23          MR. OLAN REEVES: On both.

24          ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: It is in  
25          both drafts.

1 MR. BILLY CLAY: Thank you.

2 MR. OLAN REEVES: Thank you. Anybody  
3 else?

4 MR. REGINALD ROBERTSON: My name  
5 is Reginald Robertson from Crittenden County,  
6 Arkansas. And for the record, I am an  
7 African-American, and for the record, I would  
8 like to report that. Part of the question I  
9 want to deal with is on the plan, I see some  
10 problem areas. I understand from the  
11 Constitution -- I am a lawyer, too, just like  
12 Daddy is. I have been doing Civil Rights Law  
13 for the past 15 years, so, I more familiar with  
14 some kind of laws.

15 The basic issues of the Constitution to be  
16 followed is incumbency, compactness, as that  
17 man said over there, economic factors. Now,  
18 the Supreme Court, in the Kevin Rule (phonic)  
19 decision said you have got a right to consider  
20 race as one factor, as long as that is not your  
21 only factor. And so long as you consider race,  
22 and we have got some -- we have got some Hunt  
23 cases and some Jeffers cases, so those are the  
24 factors, as well as decisions.

25 There are -- you have got the incumbency,

1           you have to back to the incumbency problems  
2           there, where you see all of these issues.  
3           I don't particularly like the plan, either.  
4           But I think those areas have been covered  
5           by the plan there. I see a problem trying the  
6           compactness in -- where is that at -- in the  
7           Senate district, well, across from St. --  
8           across from Phillips County going to Jefferson  
9           County, where you were talking about  
10          common interests of them people there.

11                 I believe there is a difference --  
12          you are talking about different folks. There  
13          are two or three different radio stations  
14          to broadcast the offices, and you are  
15          talking about different people running a race  
16          like that. I think that -- that needs to  
17          be drawn a lot easier, closer than what it is  
18          down right there. And I will submit a plan to  
19          you all before you all close down. Thank you.

20                 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Okay.  
21          If you or anyone else has a plan or, you  
22          know, whatever, whether it is writing or just a  
23          map with some lines, however you want to do  
24          it, please either get it to us today or the  
25          court reporter today, or feel free to mail it

1 to us or E-mail it to us, you know, whatever is  
2 convenient. Because we are certainly looking  
3 for that type of input.

4 MR. JOSEPH PERRY, JR.: Good evening. My  
5 name is Joseph L. Perry, Jr., I am a resident  
6 of Lee County, I was a plaintiff in the Jeffers  
7 lawsuit, so I will speak from the Jeffers  
8 lawsuit and from the fact that I am a black  
9 representative of Lee County.

10 The first concern I have is in the  
11 House district in the fact that -- I agree with  
12 the gentleman, I think, from Marion in the  
13 House, St. Francis be in Phillips County --  
14 well, St. Francis and Crittenden County is  
15 split, and Lee County, for the last three  
16 plans -- or I will say the two plans out of  
17 Jeffers, the first one that was adopted, and  
18 then in 1992, it was re-adopted, because in  
19 1990, I was in a majority black district. In  
20 1992, I ended up in a majority white district.

21 And in both plans, Lee County was split.

22 Now, the problem is, in Lee County,  
23 you have a rural population that votes one way,  
24 and you have a city population that  
25 historically votes different. And the eastern

1 half of Lee County is a depopulated area. So,  
2 it doesn't matter where you put the eastern  
3 half of Lee County. East of Langston River,  
4 because there is less than 500 people in the  
5 whole area. And that is not including the  
6 present Brickeys prison, which I am told by the  
7 mayor that the prison populations are counted  
8 for voting populations.

9 I needed to ask the committee a question.  
10 Are the prison population counted in these  
11 plans, because they are disenfranchised and  
12 can't vote for anybody.

13 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Yes. Let's  
14 let Tim answer that, but the answer is yes.

15 MR. TIM HUMPHRIES: Yes. It is sort of a  
16 sliding scale. And in the districts of this  
17 size, the court have considered the issue  
18 upheld that you should include prison  
19 populations.

20 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Right.

21 MR. JOSEPH PERRY, JR.: Well, is any  
22 variance given to the fact that those  
23 people can't vote any kind of way?

24 MR. TIM HUMPHRIES: I think that is  
25 what --



1 MR. JOSEPH PERRY, JR.: The second  
2 they are voting age population, and you can't  
3 register them to vote, it is an illusion when  
4 it comes to saying that a district has so many  
5 minority voters when, one, the people who are  
6 in prison are not even residents of the county  
7 they are housed in, there is no continuity in  
8 the sense that if you count that person today,  
9 ADC, the Arkansas Department of Corrections,  
10 can move that person to Cummins, Van Nuys,  
11 Texarkana tomorrow.

12 I mean, we have no control over how long a  
13 person is in our county or who they are. But  
14 to say that they are part of the minority  
15 population, and they can't even register to  
16 vote, is an illusion when it comes to voting  
17 plans. If that is the case, in Lee County, in  
18 some of your smaller districts, like Quorum  
19 Court districts, there probably is enough  
20 people at Brickeys to have their own JP  
21 district in the prison. You understand what I  
22 am saying?

23 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: See,  
24 now, well, listen to what Tim said. He is  
25 talking about a sliding scale.

1 MR. TIM HUMPHRIES: That is why it is  
2 a sliding scale. If you have got a small  
3 district, in Lee County your JP districts are  
4 going to be about 1,500 people.

5 MR. JOSEPH PERRY, JR.: That is right.

6 MR. TIM HUMPHRIES: Then you would not  
7 count them. But in districts this size,  
8 26,000, where they are sort of absorbed in the  
9 overall population, the courts that  
10 have considered the issue have held that  
11 you should count them in that.

12 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Well,  
13 I mean, all we are trying do is follow  
14 that law.

15 MR. JOSEPH PERRY, JR.: I understand that.

16 And all I am saying is, you  
17 asked for comments, and I am voicing my  
18 comments that I don't agree with counting the  
19 prison population as part of the voting  
20 population. Now, I was told that prison  
21 population was going to be counted for economic  
22 reasons, that is not the reason. That is a  
23 completely different issue, I don't have any  
24 problem with that. But for the voting issue, I  
25 disagree that prison population should be

1 counted at all.

2 Second thing, I don't think that Lee  
3 and St. Francis Counties should be split.  
4 If they are split, one of the things  
5 that I find when you have counties who  
6 are decreasing in population, Lee County  
7 has only 12,000 people. I don't see any reason  
8 why Lee County can't be a solid county  
9 in whatever district you put it in, as long  
10 as -- my concern is, I differ with Attorney  
11 Daggett in terms of the law.

12 The State of Arkansas, if I understand,  
13 and you can correct me, is still under the  
14 Jeffers lawsuit. I mean, in terms of the  
15 Jeffers lawsuit, what I am saying, it hasn't  
16 been overturned, so it is still law. Now, if  
17 it gets overturned, I can understand that it  
18 is not law. But I am saying, it is law until  
19 somebody challenges it and says it is not valid  
20 anymore.

21 And the only thing I am saying there  
22 is, this Board has a responsibility of working  
23 with certain numbers to ensure certain minority  
24 districts. I am not concerned about which  
25 minority district I am in. But I have a

1 concern on how the districts are drawn. In Lee  
2 County, in the Senate draft, Oak Forest,  
3 Richland, Spring Creek, Texas, and Hampton are  
4 either majority black townships -- occasionally  
5 Oak Forest has voted to report every black  
6 relevant candidate that has ever ran in  
7 Lee County. What I noticed in the Senate  
8 district plan, the four rural black majority  
9 townships in Western Lee County are put  
10 into 17.

11 Now, looking at your figure, 16 is a  
12 65 percent black majority district, 17, I  
13 think, is a 25 or 35 percent minority, it is a  
14 majority white district. So, what you did in  
15 Lee County, you effectively split the county,  
16 took the rural majority population of blacks  
17 and put them in a white district. You took the  
18 metropolitan area, which is maybe around the 75  
19 percent that he didn't -- he couldn't add up,  
20 it is a misinformation that has been published  
21 in the paper that says that Lee County is  
22 75 percent black, when the city around it is 75  
23 percent black. That is where the 75 percent  
24 comes from.

25 So, Lee County is 57 percent majority

1 black, so there is no reason that half the  
2 black rural population should be put in  
3 the white district under any circumstance,  
4 because the town is majority black. My  
5 concerns, like I said, is how your plan is  
6 drawn as it affects the counties within 16 and  
7 17 in Lee County, how 52 and 51 is drawn in the  
8 House district. And I am not in contesting the  
9 numbers, I am just talking about where the  
10 lines are.

11 And I agree with some of the other  
12 comments, that some of these counties --  
13 I don't understand, over here in the delta, and  
14 I agree with some of these other people, these  
15 counties are losing population that you all are  
16 splitting. When you have got 12,000 people in  
17 a county, you can put them in any district,  
18 because it is smaller than the district. Now,  
19 if it was 35,000 people in the county, that  
20 tells me mathematically, you have got to split  
21 it. But when you have got dwindling population  
22 there, it is easier to compact smaller  
23 populations into one district than to split  
24 them, because all of them are smaller than your  
25 ideal numbers.

1           A couple of other comments. You do  
2           not have all of the districts displayed,  
3           and what I am saying now, and I think I  
4           mentioned it to your staff person, he showed me  
5           on computer, but to bring some districts and  
6           display them and not display them all, I don't  
7           understand the rationale. Your maps that is  
8           displayed don't have any numbers on them.

9           So, that doesn't tell us anything, we are  
10          just looking at a geographical area. And you  
11          all draw districts on numbers, basically. I  
12          mean, I understand that geographic comes in,  
13          but the most important thing is the numbers,  
14          from one man, one vote, and the racial and all  
15          of that. He didn't have a comparative on his  
16          computer of the old districts and the new  
17          districts. That kind of gives a person an idea.

18          He knows where he has been in the last ten  
19          years, if he can see what the proposed  
20          plan does to him, he kind of can look at it and  
21          see whether or not it is, you know, acceptable  
22          or not.

23          And you are saying we can submit a  
24          plan, but I would like to know, where can  
25          a layman get these figures for the census?

1           Because for some reason, when I asked the  
2           county clerks for the people, they say  
3           they don't have any minor breakdowns. When I  
4           am saying a minor breakdown, you have  
5           got to have a township number, or simple  
6           numeration districts figures to do a plan. And  
7           so far, I haven't seen any official figures  
8           available from anybody in the county, you know,  
9           locally. And so, I am just saying, if we are  
10          going to submit a plan, we need to have those  
11          figures available locally.

12                 And one other district, since I was  
13          a person in the Jeffers lawsuit, Senate  
14          District Number Five, I don't live there, but  
15          what concerns me is, that district crosses two  
16          rivers. And basically, you have got three, I  
17          know at least three different types of  
18          communities involved in one Senate district,  
19          and it is kind of like the gentleman said about  
20          driving all day just to file.

21                 The people in Phillips County have,  
22          really, very little in common with the people  
23          west of the White River. The people between  
24          the White River and the Arkansas River, I  
25          question what they have got to do with the

1 people that live in Pine Bluff, which is south  
2 of the Arkansas River. Do you understand what  
3 I am saying? You cross the Arkansas River that  
4 takes in Pine Bluff, which is a metropolitan  
5 area, then you have got that area of Arkansas  
6 County between the two rivers, then you have  
7 got Phillips County, which is east of the White  
8 River. And it is kind of like a situation down  
9 in Snow Lake. Snow Lake is in Desha County,  
10 I think, and then people have to drive all  
11 the way back up to DeWitt to go down to the  
12 county seat.

13 So, you understand what I am saying, it  
14 kind of puts a difficulty on people crossing  
15 three rivers sometimes. And if the senator is  
16 from Pine Bluff, that means you have got to go  
17 halfway across the state just to talk about a  
18 problem. That is all I am saying, and I am  
19 saying that just as a comment. I don't live in  
20 that district. But to cross two rivers to draw  
21 up districts seems odd to me. Thank you.

22 MR. LEO CHITMAN: Good evening. My  
23 name is Leo Chitman. To the Reapportionment  
24 Committee, I am a citizen of West Memphis,  
25 Arkansas in Crittenden County. I have written



1 to the Apportionment Board, and I want to say  
2 in support of Attorney Reginald Robertson, who  
3 is representing Crittenden County, that I  
4 support the kind of observation he has  
5 made, and to the extent I, too, was a part  
6 of the 1990, when we were talking about the  
7 lawsuit, to that extent, as far as districts  
8 are concerned.

9 I want to be registered and on record that  
10 I am present. I want to have a citizen's  
11 participation for this. And I had mentioned to  
12 the extent the with regards to Congressional  
13 districts, both Senate and House, the state  
14 districts, both House and Senate, as well as  
15 other districts that you may not have, which  
16 has to do with Justices of the Peace,  
17 School Board districts, and City Council Boards  
18 and precincts. That may not affect you, but we  
19 are concerned, because we are talking about  
20 voting rights, one man, one vote, and so on.

21 So, I want to say to you, I want to be on  
22 record, and we will be looking at those things  
23 much further. I want to express to the  
24 Secretary to the extent that I did receive from  
25 the Attorney General's office correspondence to

1 the extent that I had questions. The  
2 turn-around time was so short, it affects some  
3 of us that don't have the means or the  
4 conveniences to do those things. Really, in  
5 regard, I asked about the computer program, how  
6 are we able to do it, how are we to get this  
7 information? There were comments about that.

8 But I think that perhaps economically and  
9 cost-wise, you talk about rights to do this,  
10 but it also eludes the person that does not  
11 have the means to do it. So, I want to go on  
12 record to say we will be looking. And I did  
13 ask how many hearings will be had before you  
14 adopt the plan? There was some response to  
15 that extent. So, my concern is, hopefully, we  
16 will continue to have some input and have some  
17 concerns.

18 Thank you very kindly for your attendance,  
19 and I shall look closely and hopefully to have  
20 some participation. Thank you so much.

21 MR. MARK SMITH: Good evening. I am Mark  
22 Smith from Marianna, Arkansas, and I am the  
23 chairman of the Lee County Election Commission.

24 And I would like to echo, I believe what the  
25 majority of people are saying is that leave the

1 counties and communities together. And  
2 splitting Lee County makes it problematic for  
3 ballots for people to know what House they are  
4 in, what House district, what Senate district.

5 And, you know, I just fully do not  
6 understand why you have to make long districts  
7 that span multiple communities and divide  
8 communities when we don't have very much in  
9 common with West Memphis, being in Marianna,  
10 Arkansas from a Senate district standpoint.  
11 And it is just -- if there is any way that we  
12 could keep those communities and counties  
13 together, we would very much appreciate it.  
14 Thank you very much.

15 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Thank  
16 you, Mark.

17 MR. EDDIE SCHIEFFLER: My name is Eddie  
18 Schieffler, I am a resident of Phillips County,  
19 serve on the Phillips County Quorum Court. And  
20 I guess I was -- the one thing that I am  
21 wondering, Mr. Humphries, if the computer would  
22 show in the Senate district, between Five and  
23 16, how West Helena and Helena were divided, is  
24 there away to show that in details?

25 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Yes. We can

1 zoom that in.

2 MR. EDDIE SCHIEFFLER: And, you know,  
3 to start off on the right foot, I appreciate  
4 the fact that Phillips County is drawn in a one  
5 House district. It has been a nightmare as far  
6 as ballot variations have been in the last ten  
7 years, because you have multiple districts  
8 drawn on difference bases, and as staff, I am  
9 sure, is well aware, there have been lawsuits  
10 about where people live. And when you have to  
11 go down a street and decide which side of the  
12 block you are on, it is very confusing. So, I  
13 guess, by the detail, and it looks like --

14 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Is that  
15 detailed enough?

16 MR. EDDIE SCHIEFFLER: Okay. Helena, West  
17 Helena is in 16. Okay. I could not ever  
18 tell that from the maps that I have seen  
19 before. I echo the similar comment about  
20 Senate District Five, the fact that you are  
21 covering two Congressional districts, you are  
22 covering four judicial districts, you are  
23 dividing parts of four or five counties there.

24 And, you know, how are the people going to  
25 have a senator from Pine Bluff come over to a

1 fish fry in Marvell or Helena or wherever it  
2 may be to talk about issues that they have when  
3 that person, as we are citizen legislators has  
4 to have a job, can take off work and travel two  
5 hours to appear, and to represent the  
6 constituents of that area? With the fact that  
7 it appears to me that somewhat Five and 23 are  
8 protecting incumbency, but with the fact that  
9 we have had a Constitutional amendment in  
10 applying term limits, that the protection of  
11 incumbency would seem to be the public policy  
12 of the state is less now because of the fact  
13 that the people have spoken overwhelmingly  
14 against having no limits on terms.

15 You know, there may be a period of ten to  
16 20 years from now when we want to reverse what  
17 we have voted on on that Constitutional  
18 amendment after the legislature has gone  
19 through so many green horns that nobody knows  
20 what is going on. But right now, protecting  
21 incumbency does not seem to be a motivating  
22 factor.

23 And to echo the other comment, the fact of  
24 commonality of interest with Phillips County  
25 and Jefferson County, crossing over Stuttgart

1 and parts of Desha and Lincoln County are not  
2 there. We are more attuned with Lee County and  
3 St. Francis County in our interest. And just  
4 to give you an example, the National Weather  
5 Service in Memphis met with our Quorum Court,  
6 or asked us about coming up with a location  
7 to have a -- to cover a gap on their early  
8 warning system which exists in Monroe,  
9 Phillips, and Lee County.

10 And so, we got together with those county  
11 judges and are coming up with maybe a place to  
12 have an early warning system there. But are we  
13 going to be able to get somebody from Pine  
14 Bluff to come and tell us, "Hey, I will take an  
15 interest in that," when Monroe, Phillips, Lee  
16 County, St. Francis County, already have those  
17 bridges that are there, the community colleges  
18 that are there, there are people that travel in  
19 Lee County and go to St. Francis and to  
20 Phillips College back and forth. But I am not  
21 aware of anybody that drives, on a day class  
22 that goes to the college in Pine Bluff. And I  
23 don't think anybody from Pine Bluff drives to  
24 the college in Helena.

25 So, it really seems to be a stretch, and I

1           guess I want to ask the question, after the  
2           round of hearings a year ago, did anybody come  
3           up and say, "Pine Bluff and Helena want to be  
4           together," or "Phillips County and Jefferson  
5           County want to be together because we share so  
6           much in common"? It seems like that after it  
7           was all said and done, that the scraps  
8           were left and we had to fashion something  
9           to put together to say, "Well, we finished the  
10          job." But in any of the factors, Mr. Reeves,  
11          that you had mentioned earlier, I don't see how  
12          they fit together in Senate District Five.  
13          Thank you.

14                 MR. B.T. COOPER: Good afternoon. My name  
15                 is Reverend B.T. Cooper, I am a citizen of St.  
16                 Francis County, I am the president of the  
17                 St. Francis County Ministers Alliance. And I  
18                 am kind of troubled by some of the things that  
19                 I have been hearing, and that is, people  
20                 not having things in common, you know. I think  
21                 that everybody that go to bed at night, they  
22                 sleep. When they wake up in the morning, they  
23                 get up, they eat, they go to work.

24                 And all of the representatives that I have  
25                 dealt with have had the concerns of all their

1 constituents, regardless to how poor they were,  
2 how wealthy they were. Because, in order to be  
3 a representative of the people, then you must  
4 have all segments of the community at hand.  
5 And I think that, also, another question that I  
6 have is that I agreed with partial movement of  
7 various drafts, and because, for one -- now,  
8 before then, we had the drafting into the  
9 Senate districts and the various appropriate  
10 districts, and then people were confused for a  
11 while on where they should  
12 vote.

13 But now people basically know where  
14 they are to vote. And so, why would you make a  
15 great drastic change to place voters right back  
16 where they were before the last appropriation?

17 And I think that is very sensible not to try  
18 to move the lines all over everywhere. And if  
19 and when the drafting and the final bill is  
20 done, I think it would be of a great reliance  
21 to the community and to all of the citizens  
22 if we were to stop trying to do racial  
23 profiling for our own good.

24 Because, as I listen to people talk,  
25 I hear different things within their speech.



1 And it troubles me, because I think that the  
2 way that the bill has -- the way that the draft  
3 has been drawn now is that it was for the good  
4 of the various districts. It may be some pros  
5 and some cons, but I think in the end that all  
6 of us should just sit down and just work these  
7 out and not do things for selfish reasons.

8 And I think that you all are doing an  
9 excellent job. And I can't speak for Pine  
10 Bluff, because I don't live there. But I can  
11 speak for St. Francis County where I live. And  
12 I think that our representatives, both senators  
13 and representatives, have done a great job in  
14 respecting their constituents and working for  
15 the betterment of their behalf. And it  
16 troubles me when people try to make it seem as  
17 though that some are not doing a good job when  
18 they are doing a great job. Thank you.

19 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: I see  
20 Ben McGee coming to the microphone.

21 MR. BEN MCGEE: Good evening. It  
22 is a pleasure to be with you today. The  
23 interesting thing about of all this discussion,  
24 we have discussed the Jeffers versus Clinton  
25 lawsuit. But the lawsuit that really drives

1           this is Smith versus Clinton. You remember  
2           that one. That is the lawsuit that really  
3           drives all of this. And within -- it is  
4           interesting, as I sit back and listen to this  
5           discussion, it reminds me of 1980 when we met,  
6           and we came to the reapportionment hearing,  
7           when every -- when the majority of the people  
8           there were bitterly opposed to changing these  
9           multi-member districts. Some of the same  
10          people are in the room tonight. It is kind of  
11          interesting.

12                 But the thing that has driven this  
13          has been the fact that we have been -- it has  
14          difficult for everybody to elect  
15          representatives and senators of their choice.  
16          And let me tell you, it is important for young  
17          people to be able to elect somebody that looks  
18          like them. It is important, it is very  
19          important. So, when people say, "Let's don't do  
20          it this way," and "Let's do it another way,"  
21          let me remind you of something.

22                 In the last election, with Joe Harris  
23          running for the Senate, a very competent  
24          representative who had done an excellent job,  
25          the people throughout that district, he ran in

1 a majority white district, the people  
2 throughout that district voted in the same  
3 manner they voted in 1980. The white  
4 population in the district voted almost 90  
5 percent against Joe Harris, the black  
6 population voted almost 90 percent for Joe  
7 Harris.

8 So, I think it is important that you  
9 understand that hasn't much changed over here  
10 when people come to voting, they still vote  
11 along racial lines. It is a sad truth that we  
12 have over here. And if we intend to be fair  
13 about the representation, you do have to  
14 consider drawing lines. Race is a factor and  
15 commonality is a factor. For instance, Turrell  
16 and Gilmore, it is unbelievable that anyone who  
17 is drawing a line today would consider leaving  
18 Turrell and Gilmore out of the House district  
19 in Crittenden County.

20 And I will tell you why. The people in  
21 Turrell and Gilmore do not go to Blytheville or  
22 Osceola for the doctor, they do not go  
23 to Blytheville to bank, they do not go to  
24 Blytheville to receive -- to buy medical  
25 prescriptions. All their telephone,

1 everything, works towards West Memphis  
2 and Marion.

3 So, in that House district, those people  
4 should be with the people that they have  
5 something in common with socially -- and this  
6 is part of the Supreme Court decision,  
7 socially, culturally, educationally. Those  
8 things should be considered. Turrell and  
9 Gilmore School District is in Crittenden  
10 County, the -- all the Quorum Court members  
11 come to Marion for meetings. They don't go to  
12 Mississippi County. So, it is unthinkable that  
13 those two towns should not be added to the  
14 majority black House district and include those  
15 areas. It is unthinkable that they do not  
16 include the rest of the county in the Senate  
17 district.

18 I think Reginald probably has presented a  
19 plan like that. And before I take my seat, I  
20 want to remind you of one thing, the same  
21 people who filed those lawsuits, who brought  
22 about these changes, have been here tonight to  
23 testify. And I think it would be unrealistic  
24 for you to not consider having those folks'  
25 input heard. Because, you know, every lawsuit

1 in the state has been lost when it came to  
2 something dealing with desegregation or  
3 integration. We have lost every one of them.

4 I made this argument on the House floor. I  
5 noticed that in -- just now, recently, you have  
6 got to pay about \$10 or \$12 million  
7 to attorneys who brought the lawsuit  
8 challenging the way we fund a small school  
9 district. We will be tired of lawsuits,  
10 because we are losing them and losing them and  
11 we are spending money that the poor people of  
12 this state could use.

13 So, I ask you -- no, I implore you to keep  
14 an open mind and remember what got us in this  
15 predicament, and it hasn't changed, and you  
16 have to consider that. Thank you for listening  
17 to me.

18 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: And before  
19 you leave, let me ask for the record, how many  
20 years did you serve in the Arkansas House of  
21 Representatives?

22 MR. BEN MCGEE: 12.

23 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: 12. And  
24 also, Turrell and Gilmore is up here in this  
25 northern part?

1 MR. BEN MCGEE: That is right.

2 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: And this  
3 House is 55?

4 MR. BEN MCGEE: 55.

5 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: And you  
6 would like to see it in 54?

7 MR. BEN MCGEE: Yes. It should be. Well,  
8 it should -- you should include it. See, it is  
9 not even realistic to go to Cross County for  
10 House District 54, and I will tell you why. No  
11 commonality. The people in Parkin and Wynne go  
12 to Wynne for everything. They have absolutely  
13 nothing to do with our county in a large scale.  
14 And I would venture to say that 95 percent of  
15 those people bank in Cross County.

16 They have no relationship with Crittenden  
17 County, socially, culturally, or educationally.

18 They have nothing in common. And it is  
19 important that we take in the rest of the  
20 county. We have got three distressed school  
21 districts in Crittenden County. It is Earle,  
22 Earle and Crawfordsville. Probably Earle might  
23 be off now. But that is the commonality that  
24 we have in the county, educationally, socially.  
25 The people -- the people -- there are people

1 in Earle that go to church in West Memphis, a  
2 lot of them. There are people in West Memphis  
3 and Marion go to church in Earle.

4 It is just a lot in common. And that  
5 should be kept together where possible. And I  
6 think you could avoid a lot of hard feelings if  
7 you would keep it together. I think it is  
8 important. And I think as we grow and mature,  
9 maybe in the next ten years when we come back,  
10 maybe it is time to look at color-blind  
11 districts, but it is not time right now, I will  
12 be honest with you. I wish I could say  
13 differently, but it is not. And I think in your  
14 hearts you know that. I don't have to tell you  
15 that. And I think we have to look at that.  
16 Thank you, sir.

17 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Thank you.  
18 Let me also say something just for the audience  
19 to understand. And I think it stands to  
20 reason, but I am not sure, I don't know  
21 if everyone has thought this through. But it is  
22 hard, our options are limited in redrawing  
23 these when the district is up against another  
24 state. So, Tennessee, Mississippi, Missouri,  
25 there are just not that many places to go.

1           If you are talking about something here in  
2           Central Arkansas, you have got a lot -- you  
3           have got all four sides of the district as  
4           options to mold that clay with. But when you  
5           get along this river and along the other  
6           borders of the state, I am just throwing that  
7           out for you all's thoughts, that it gets  
8           increasingly difficult to divide sometimes.  
9           Who else has something to say? Yes, ma'am.

10           MS. HOLLY BAXTER: I am Holly Baxter, I am  
11           from Forrest City, and I am an American  
12           Government -- I am not an actress.

13           MR. REEVES: Why don't you just hold it?  
14           You can just hold it. There you go.

15           MS. HOLLY BAXTER: I am an American  
16           Government teacher and I teach in Wynne. And  
17           as we have been going through this, you know,  
18           the teacher in me, I am here thinking, "This is  
19           democracy in action." Can you imagine being  
20           from other countries and trying to criticize  
21           your elected officials and the people that have  
22           tried to make up our voting districts? You  
23           know, it is wonderful that we do have this  
24           opportunity and the redistricting every  
25           ten years.



1           Now, from the point of view of an American  
2           Government teacher, when I teach voting, voting  
3           is supposed to be simple. But I have heard all  
4           these horror stories about people trying to go  
5           vote. Well, they go to the wrong place because  
6           they live on the other side of the street or  
7           down wherever. And in my opinion -- and  
8           you need a woman's opinion every once in  
9           a while.

10           ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: I agree with  
11           that.

12           SECRETARY OF STATE SHARON PRIEST: I agree  
13           with that.

14           MS. HOLLY BAXTER: Voting should be easy,  
15           and it should not be intimidating. We should  
16           be able to be politically literate. And it  
17           would be much easier if we did leave St.  
18           Francis County together, leave Forrest City  
19           together. Even for programs where we have our  
20           representative or a senator come to speak, when  
21           you have got your city or your school district  
22           divided into all these other little parts and  
23           you want to bring the representative in, well,  
24           you know, I know who my representative is, but  
25           if you live over there, you have got another

1 representative.

2 That confuses the kids. It confuses  
3 the adults, because I have been at the voting  
4 precincts when they said, "They don't even have  
5 that guy on there I want to vote for and I have  
6 been reading about him in the newspaper." So,  
7 my message is to take into consideration  
8 keeping your communities together. And I agree  
9 with -- oh, I am really scared now, Senator  
10 McGee, Representative?

11 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR:  
12 Representative.

13 MS. HOLLY BAXTER: Honorable Mr. McGee,  
14 that the commonality factors, you know, we want  
15 to be on the same team, we are in the same  
16 community, same school, whatever, churches.  
17 And if we can talk about problems and try to  
18 solve them as a unit, as opposed to being  
19 scattered, we need as much power as we can get  
20 over here in Eastern Arkansas. We need to  
21 communicate, and we need to work together.  
22 Thank you.

23 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Thank  
24 you.

25 MS. JOYCE GRAY: Good evening. My name is

1           Joyce Gray, I am a registered voter of  
2           Crittenden County. And I have a couple of  
3           questions. My thanks. Your plan does not  
4           include to provide us information on the voting  
5           age over 18. Secondly, it doesn't give us the  
6           detail of what precincts are in the plan.  
7           Thirdly, there is three factors that the court  
8           determined in forming the districts, one was  
9           polarization of any race, secondly, cracking  
10          communities of interest, and third, packing,  
11          joining whites -- too many whites in one  
12          district.

13                 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: On the --  
14                 to answer your questions. On the computer  
15                 model, we have all of that information. We  
16                 would be glad to pull it up for you. Do  
17                 you want to see the voting age?

18                 MS. JOYCE GRAY: Yes.

19                 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Which  
20                 district, or how districts did you want to  
21                 see?

22                 MS. JOYCE GRAY: District 22.

23                 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: District 22?

24                 MS. JOYCE GRAY: Senate District 22.

25                 MR. TIM HUMPHRIES: Senate 22?

1 MS. JOYCE GRAY: Well, all districts  
2 in 22.

3 MR. TIM HUMPHRIES: That is Senate  
4 District 16.

5 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: 16.

6 MS. JOYCE GRAY: 16.

7 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: The new  
8 proposed draft 16?

9 MR. OLAN REEVES: The numbers we  
10 considered and the numbers that are on  
11 this chart is total population. That is that  
12 we used under the Constitution to draw these  
13 districts. So, voting age population is  
14 something you can have, but it is not something  
15 we used in drawing the districts. We only used  
16 the total population. So, if you have a bunch  
17 of little kids, they are still counted in here.  
18 That is why inmates are counted, because they  
19 are people and they live in that district.

20 Voting age is not something that we  
21 take into consideration. We do straight  
22 numbers. We can give you the precincts, too.  
23 We just didn't do them for the draft plan  
24 because the plans aren't final. And if we send  
25 the precincts out and people think that is it,

1           they will think they are in a district, and we  
2           may change it and they are not. So, we didn't  
3           give the precincts out, even to the clerk, I  
4           don't think.

5           MR. LARRY CRANE: Where we were asked for  
6           precinct information, we did furnish it to  
7           them.

8           MR. OLAN REEVES: Yes. If we were  
9           asked by specific people, we gave them to them,  
10          and we were asked sometimes.

11          MS. JOYCE GRAY: But we can get that  
12          information?

13          MR. LARRY CRANE: Yes, absolutely.

14          MR. TIM HUMPHRIES: Yes.

15          MR. OLAN REEVES: Yes, you can, sure.

16          ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: And in fact,  
17          after we finish here --

18          MR. OLAN REEVES: We can show you.

19          ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Yes. If we  
20          want to maybe do so more one-on-one time so we  
21          don't take everybody's time --

22          MR. OLAN REEVES: Sure.

23          ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: -- to show  
24          whoever wants to see precinct information  
25          and all of the details of our software, it is

1           totally open to the public.

2           MR. LEO DANJO: I am Leo Danjo from Wynne,  
3           and I am a representative in District 90. And  
4           I have to rise to agree with my mayor from  
5           Parkin, Eda Claire, it was right on target, and  
6           with Ben McGee, what he said was right on  
7           target, that Parkin is totally connected to  
8           Wynne.

9           And I was county judge before I was State  
10          Representative. And when I ran for county  
11          judge, Eda Claire and all of that bunch from  
12          Parkin said, "Well, now, listen. Is Parkin  
13          going to be a part of Cross County or are you  
14          just going to be a Wynne judge?" So, I have  
15          got to get up here and defend keeping Parkin in  
16          Cross  
17          County.

18          And if that will work, Larry, you know, I  
19          compliment your staff for the work they have  
20          done, they have worked very hard for me trying  
21          to get these things done. And if I have the  
22          numbers correct, if District 90 was totally  
23          Cross County and totally Woodruff County, like  
24          I have Woodruff County in totality on the new  
25          plan, that would put me at 4.7 something on the

1 plus side. So, that district would be okay.

2 And I believe, I tried to look at the  
3 numbers on Kevin Goss and Steve Jones, and  
4 I think with just a little bit of shuffling,  
5 they would -- I think Kevin and Steve would  
6 lack about 14, or something like that, being up  
7 with enough population. And if that would  
8 work -- we never looked at that possibility,  
9 Larry, when we were looking at that thing, but  
10 I believe that you might be able to do that by  
11 doing what Ben said, going up and taking  
12 Gilmore and Turrell, and then giving -- giving  
13 me back -- in District 57, give me back all of  
14 Cross County, and leave Woodruff County just  
15 like it is.

16 Those numbers are going to be so close  
17 that I believe you can make those work. And  
18 that involves, also, Representative Eason,  
19 which you have already done, you have already  
20 taken some of his district to give to  
21 Representative Jones, but I believe that would  
22 work. And if it would, what I would -- I would  
23 like to ask you to do that.

24 And I know that you have worked very hard  
25 and changed that thing a bunch of times.

1 And these people don't know how much time you  
2 all have spent on it, and you have really  
3 worked, and I appreciate that. But if you could  
4 do that, I would be the happiest representative  
5 in the House of Representatives. Thank you.

6 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Thank you.

7 SECRETARY OF STATE SHARON PRIEST: Now, if  
8 we could just make the other 99 happy.

9 MR. JOE BAKER: My name is Joe Baker, I am  
10 from West Memphis. First of all, attempts at  
11 unity and finding a reasonable solution are  
12 always to be applauded, of course. When we can  
13 work together above our partisan preference,  
14 above our religious preference, above our  
15 racial identification, Arkansas wins.

16 I think it is noteworthy that we have, for  
17 20 years, been looking for solutions to poverty  
18 in the delta. The fractionalization of the  
19 delta politically has a bearing on the  
20 fractionalization of the economics of the  
21 delta, and I think we need to keep that in  
22 mind. And I know that you all heard from the  
23 folks in Randolph and Lawrence County earlier  
24 in the day and you have heard from plenty of  
25 people here saying, "Let's try to minimize the



1 fractionalization of counties." I  
2 wholeheartedly believe in that.

3 Frank Barton and others have referred  
4 to voting machine problems, voter confusion,  
5 and so forth, and I will not go back to  
6 that again. I agree with Ben McGee's statement  
7 that Turrell and Gilmore need to be a part of  
8 Crittenden County. They are.

9 I think that, you know, one measure,  
10 and one manifestation of the political  
11 fracturing of Eastern Arkansas is, you can look  
12 at Western Arkansas where you have generally a  
13 better level of economic progress and social  
14 progress, and you can see, I think, less  
15 fractionalization of the counties than you do  
16 in Eastern Arkansas. And gerrymandering,  
17 whether you are a history teacher or whatever  
18 your role may be, gerrymandering is always  
19 problematic and subject to condemnation.

20 I note that when I went to the State  
21 Capitol Building, the fractionalization of  
22 Crittenden County is so bad that, you know, you  
23 go in and you see a picture of Johnson County,  
24 where I used to live, and you see pictures of  
25 other sections of Arkansas in the cafeteria

1 down in the basement. You don't see a picture  
2 of West Memphis, you don't see a picture of a  
3 lot of these counties that are fractionalized.

4 And you might say, "So what?" But I think it  
5 is a manifestation of the political fracturing  
6 that we have been through.

7 I substantially endorse the comments  
8 of Frank Barton on the Senate districts.  
9 I endorse the comments of trying to make  
10 a minimum number -- or trying to give  
11 Crittenden County a more cohesive political  
12 vote in Little Rock to the House districts. And  
13 I would like at this point, if it is  
14 permissible, just for your edification, to ask  
15 the folks who are in substantial support of the  
16 comments offered by Frank Barton to raise your  
17 hands.

18 AUDIENCE: (Indicating.)

19 MS. JOE BAKER: Thank you very much.

20 MR. REEVES: Anybody else? Representative  
21 Jones?

22 MR. STEVE JONES: Thank you, Butch. It is  
23 good to see you, General, Secretary Priest. I  
24 want to first comment on your staff. They have  
25 been excellent to work with, they have been

1           pretty forthright when you have asked for  
2           information. And I just want to tell you I  
3           know that it is a tough position that they  
4           have. I went to -- one reason I am here right  
5           now is just to comment on the district, the  
6           issue that Representative Danjo raised  
7           affecting 54 House District. And actually,  
8           former Representative Ben McGee spoke to it  
9           also.

10                 I have spoken with one of the mayors  
11           in one two of the towns affected, Turrell and  
12           Gilmore and the school superintendent.  
13           And while they are pleased with the  
14           representation, I mean, Representative Goss has  
15           done a good job, most of what they have in  
16           common is Crittenden County. And I have spoken  
17           with them, and you have heard from the mayor of  
18           Parkin here this evening, and I am sure that --  
19           I want to tell you, I would do a good job of  
20           representing you if I was re-elected, but  
21           Turrell and Gilmore have a lot more in common  
22           with the people who are in existing District 54  
23           than those who are in Parkin. And I just want  
24           to tell you that I hope you would consider that  
25           alteration, also. Thank you.

1 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Thank you.

2 MR. OLAN REEVES: Thank you. Okay.

3 We appreciate you being here. Mr. Pryor  
4 and Ms. Priest have a few closing comments.  
5 But like they said earlier, we hope to have a  
6 final plan out by Labor Day, so that we can get  
7 it going.

8 MR. JOSEPH PERRY, JR.: What is the  
9 deadline for submitting proposals to the  
10 Board?

11 MR. OLAN REEVES: You can submit them from  
12 now to Labor Day. Keep going.

13 MR. TIM HUMPHRIES: But as soon as  
14 possible, please.

15 MR. OLAN REEVES: Yeah.

16 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: Are there going to  
17 be some more hearings where you can put input?

18 MR. OLAN REEVES: Yes. We are having  
19 three hearings Thursday, Pine Bluff, El Dorado,  
20 and Hope. Next Tuesday in Hot Springs, and  
21 next Thursday in Little Rock.

22 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: No, I mean, in  
23 this area?

24 MR. OLAN REEVES: No. We will not be back  
25 to this town or this area. No, sir.

1 MR. LARRY BROWN: May I make a comment?

2 MR. OLAN REEVES: Sure, go ahead. Okay.

3 MR. LARRY BROWN: My name is Larry Brown,  
4 I am from here in Forrest City. My only concern  
5 is, one, and it came up earlier, and I just  
6 wanted it for the record, is that I need  
7 something conclusive in regards to the prison  
8 population, because your numbers can be bogus  
9 with those prisoners being counted, as  
10 Mr. Perry said earlier, even down.

11 You said it is on a sliding scale,  
12 where does the scale start and where does the  
13 scale stop? We need to have some definitive,  
14 so that mayors and city councils will be able  
15 to say -- like in Forrest City, we have 2,200  
16 federal prisons, it will make a difference in a  
17 ward if we go out here -- our wards can be  
18 somewhere around 3,500, 3,700 people per ward  
19 with the prison. So, we need to know and have  
20 something in writing from someone that is  
21 definitive so that we will know what way to go  
22 and how to go.

23 The other thing is, is I appreciate  
24 all your hard work. I helped draw maps  
25 ten years ago, and I know is it a difficult

1 task and it is hard to make everybody happy. I  
2 know you won't make everybody happy, you won't  
3 make me happy, and there is a lot of other  
4 people you won't make happy. All I can say is,  
5 try to do the best that you can. And as I look  
6 at it, we can say gerrymandering here,  
7 gerrymandering there. But as I look at the  
8 Senate districts, all of them are all over the  
9 place.

10 So, I know you can find out -- and I know  
11 how difficult it is. Just keep up the good  
12 work. Try to use good common sense and do a  
13 good job, House districts and Senate districts,  
14 and take into respect whatever the law is, and  
15 try to make sure that you apply that. And I  
16 think we will all, you know, be able to deal  
17 with it. But it is not going to be a way to  
18 make me happy or make people from Marion or  
19 Crittenden County happy. Just do whatever you  
20 can to make it right.

21 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Mr. Brown,  
22 thank you for saying that. Let me give you a  
23 couple of thoughts. That Tim Humphries has  
24 kind of offered his unofficial opinion, I  
25 guess, and then without the benefit of having,

1           you know, to refresh his memory on how the  
2           sliding scale works when it comes to drawing  
3           the city lines, et cetera, but let me suggest  
4           that you may want to check in with the  
5           Municipal League, because they -- this is  
6           totally in their bailiwick, and probably, they  
7           will be glad to give you an opinion.

8                     Another thought would be to ask the  
9           Attorney General for an opinion, an official  
10          Attorney General's opinion. You can have one  
11          of our State Representatives do that, and we  
12          would be glad to try to give you some official  
13          guidance on that. And we do that kind of thing  
14          a lot. So, that might be better coming from  
15          the Attorney General's office, rather than the  
16          Apportionment Board, because that seems to be  
17          more in our line of work. Thank you.

18                    MS. RUTH TRENT: My name Ruth Trent, and I  
19          am the county clerk at Crittenden County. And  
20          from -- if we do have to split up a town or  
21          something, I would ask you that you please try  
22          to consider at least the precincts, because we  
23          have got one precinct in West Memphis that you  
24          will only go two or three streets and there is  
25          a different Senate, a different JP, I mean,

1 a different rep district. And it is like four  
2 or five combinations, you know, on ballots, on  
3 election ballots. And it does create an awful  
4 lot of confusion.

5 You know, we have got these books and  
6 you have got yellow lines everywhere and  
7 everything, and people do get very confused.  
8 So, please try to consider to keep it as simple  
9 as you can, because if -- you know, I don't  
10 want to disenfranchise anybody. But I don't  
11 want the voters to be so confused on election  
12 day that they don't have any idea. But they  
13 do -- they really do get upset when they don't  
14 know where to go to vote. Thank you.

15 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Thank you.

16 SECRETARY OF STATE SHARON PRIEST: Anybody  
17 else?

18 AUDIENCE: (No response.)

19 SECRETARY OF STATE SHARON PRIEST: Okay.  
20 Just as closing comments, let me -- the  
21 question was asked earlier where people can get  
22 information by precinct or by census track.  
23 That information is available from the  
24 State Data Center at UALR, and they do have a  
25 website, and I believe that information is on



1           their website. The other thing is, I know that  
2           counties and cities have been using -- the  
3           question was asked something about the  
4           software.

5           We have made the software available,  
6           and we have three people who are working with  
7           cities and counties to help with JP and wards,  
8           drawing those new districts. So, we are making  
9           that available to people. We also have, at  
10          several of the universities -- and somebody  
11          help me, I know Fayetteville.

12          MR. OLAN REEVES: UALR.

13          MR. TIM HUMPHRIES: UALR.

14          SECRETARY OF STATE SHARON PRIEST: It  
15          is now Fayetteville and UALR. We did have  
16          several other universities that were involved  
17          and had the --

18          UNIDENTIFIED MAN: There are also some  
19          private firms that do that.

20          SECRETARY OF STATE SHARON PRIEST: A  
21          little plug for the private firms that do that.

22          But the hardware -- or software that we  
23          are using is ArkView and autoBound. And it may  
24          be expensive for a county or a city to buy, but  
25          we do have it and we have made it available for

1 counties and cities in the reapportionment  
2 office. And I guess, again, I have to  
3 reiterate that these lines are not drawn in  
4 concrete. This is a draft plan that was  
5 presented. We had to get the plan out there to  
6 try to meet the timetable, or this is something  
7 that could just go on and on and on.

8 And frankly, the three of us who serve on  
9 the Board of Apportionment are elected. It is  
10 our goal to make as many people as happy as we  
11 can, not the other way around. We -- I mean, we  
12 have worked to that end. That is the  
13 instruction that we have given our staff. And  
14 that is why they have spent hours and hours and  
15 hours working with legislators and county  
16 judges and mayors and citizens who have been  
17 interested. They have spent hours doing that  
18 so that we can try to please as many people as  
19 possible in the process. That is our goal.

20 I can tell you, we will take your  
21 suggestions, we will go back to the drawing  
22 board. We don't feel that we have a monopoly  
23 on good ideas. We also are aware that there  
24 are some ideas that we maybe haven't thought of  
25 or haven't been brought to our attention. Or

1 sometimes you just get to looking at it and you  
2 can't see where else things can go. That is  
3 why we are having these public hearings, that  
4 is why it is important you were here tonight.  
5 And that is why it is important that you  
6 participated tonight.

7 So, I would like to thank you for  
8 taking time out of your busy schedules  
9 to be here and to participate in this wonderful  
10 state that we have, and this wonderful  
11 democracy, that we are one of the very few  
12 countries that have it. Thank you.

13 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: I want  
14 to thank you all for being here. I promise  
15 you, we are listening, and I don't ever  
16 want you all to think that we are not. A lot  
17 of good suggestions here, a lot of information  
18 we have to take back and process and work  
19 through, and look at other districts around the  
20 state and see what we can do, but certainly  
21 good information, good input.

22 We appreciate you all being here. Frankly,  
23 this is hard work and this is a task that is  
24 not easy and it is not pleasant, because we  
25 have to make hard decisions all the time on

1           these maps, but the reason we are doing it is  
2           for you and for our democracy to work. And I  
3           appreciate all of you all's input, I appreciate  
4           all of your time and your attention. And I  
5           just appreciate that you are here and that you  
6           cared enough to come out and take a few hours  
7           out of your busy schedules to be here, because  
8           it is important.

9           And I just want to thank you very much for  
10          having us. Thank you for the college here  
11          hosting us. We appreciate it. Very nice  
12          facility. And with that, the meeting is  
13          adjourned. Thank you.

14          (WHEREUPON, at 7:35 p.m., the taking  
15          of the above-entitled proceeding was  
16          concluded.)

17                               ---o---

18       SIGN-IN SHEETS.

MAPS.

FRANK G. BARTON ATTACHMENT.

## C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF ARKANSAS       )  
                                   ) ss.:  
 COUNTY OF PULASKI       )

I, DONNA K. PETRE, Certified Court Reporter and notary public in and for the County of Pulaski, State of Arkansas, duly commissioned and acting, do hereby certify that the above-entitled proceedings were taken by me in Stenotype, and were thereafter reduced to print by means of computer-assisted transcription, and the same truly, and correctly reflects the proceedings had.

WHEREFORE, I have subscribed my signature and affixed my notarial seal as such notary public at the City of Little Rock, County of Pulaski, State of Arkansas, this the 26th day of July, 2001.

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DONNA K. PETRE, CCR  
 NOTARY PUBLIC IN AND FOR  
 PULASKI COUNTY, ARKANSAS  
 LS CERTIFICATE #125

My Commission Expires:  
 August 4, 2010.

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